

THE WATER PROBLEM.

GNIFICANT LETTER FROM ORANGE WATER COMPANY OFFICIAL.

Company Ready to Negotiate for Sale of its Water Main—No Profit in Furnishing Water to This Town—Town Council Decides on an Early Conference.

The water supply problem was one among several important public matters discussed at the Town Council meeting Monday night. Councilman Harrison, chairman of the Water Committee, read a letter from Joseph L. Munn, the legal counsel of the water company, in which Mr. Munn asked if a proposal for the purchase by the town of the water company's plant was desirable.

"The above letter," said Mr. Munn, "is a proposal for the purchase of the water company's plant, and it would not be wise to continue the existing arrangement with the Montclair Water Company, after the present contract with that company expires, to that the idea of obtaining water elsewhere must be considered."

The above letter preshadows the alternative that will soon confront the people of this town, either to purchase the Orange Water Company's plant and obtain water from the East Jersey Water Company, or to continue to depend upon the Orange Water Company for water at an increased cost over the present rates.

Chairman Peterson on Monday night said that the water supply question caused him more personal anxiety than any other public matter. He was desirous of having it satisfactorily settled as soon as possible, and he hoped that the Town Council would arrange for an early conference with the water company and that every member of the council would attend the conference.

Councilman Farrand endorsed the chairman's view of the question and expressed a hope for a speedy determination of the water question. Councilman Moore said there was no danger of a water famine in the town, and he hoped that no impression that there was would get abroad. If the town could not make a satisfactory contract with the Orange Water Company, water could be purchased from the East Jersey Company, and if the town must own water mains the pipes in the street could be secured by condemnation proceedings.

Some of the Councilmen declared in favor of the East Jersey getting control of the system by right of purchase from the Orange Water Company, while others favored the purchase of the line from the company direct and enacting legislation that will enable the town to bond if it becomes necessary.

The water company some time ago offered to sell the plant to the town at a price to be fixed by arbitration, but no action was ever taken. The cost of construction in Bloomfield and Glen Ridge was, it is said, \$141,000, but the proposition will now be made by the company for its purchase is only a matter of conjecture.

Harrison said that the town has no source of supply from which it can draw water. The problem was admitted as serious, and Bloomfield, it was said, was ready to exhaust every possible means to bring the matter to an early settlement. Both Chairman Peterson and Councilman Harrison are anxious of arousing public interest in the water supply question.

New Jersey's Growth.

Wm. Stalnaby, Chief of the New Jersey Bureau of Statistics, has issued a pamphlet showing the remarkable industrial growth of this State during the years from 1890 to 1900. New Jersey leads the list with a percentage of increase, namely, 72.5. In the absolute point of increase in the value of products New Jersey stands fourth being exceeded only by Pennsylvania, New York, and Illinois. In the estimate of per-capita valuation of manufactured products New Jersey stands next to Massachusetts. The State's per-capita valuation was \$24.75. The greatest increase in industrial growth was in Essex and Hudson Counties.

Lackawanna's Uptown Ferry.
The Lackawanna Railroad Company is likely to have an uptown ferry in New York, possibly at West Twenty-third Street.

Deputy Commissioner Jackson Walcott said yesterday that the application of the Lackawanna Railroad for a new ferry had been favorably received by the Dock Department, and that when the compensation to be paid the city had been determined a formal recommendation of the company's plan would be made to the Sinking Fund Commission. It is understood that the railroad has gained control of the Hoboken Ferry company, which now operates the ferries that carry its passengers from Hoboken to Barclay, Christopher and West Fourteenth Streets.

LOCAL POLITICS.

Campaign Will Open To-Night at the Labor Lyceum, when a Complete Town Ticket Will be Nominated—Other Political Matters and Council.

The local political campaign will open to-night, when the Socialist party will hold its convention and nominate a complete ticket to be voted at the town election in April next. The convention will be held at the Labor Lyceum, No. 90 Myrtle Street. The Socialists have a definite aim in view in getting in the field thus early with their ticket, and a long campaign will permit of a wide and full discussion of the issues that the Socialist party desires to get before the people.

There is a possibility that there will be four tickets in the field at the spring election. There will be the Regular Republican, the Citizens' and the Socialist tickets, and probably an independent party ticket. The election will be an important one on account of the several offices to be filled. In addition to a member of the Town Council from each ward, the offices of Tax Collector, Town Clerk and member of the Board of Assessors are to be filled, and several members of the Board of Education are to be elected.

The members of the Council whose terms expire are Herbert C. Farrand in the First Ward, Dr. W. F. Harrison in the Second Ward, and Frank N. Unangst in the Third Ward. Mr. Farrand was elected on the Regular Republican ticket, and Messrs. Harrison and Unangst on the Citizens' ticket. There is a probability that all three men will be renominated by their respective constituencies.

By virtue of his election as chairman of the town representation in the Essex County Republican Committee, John A. Lawrence now occupies the position of leader of the Republican forces in the town, and he will no doubt have charge of the party interests in the spring campaign. Mr. Lawrence is well liked on all sides, and he should make a popular leader.

The Citizens' ticket being simply an expediency in local politics, it has no specific organization, but a number of men prominent in the Democratic party generally dictate the nominations that go on that ticket. The Citizens' ticket has been in the field in local campaigns for several years now, and a semblance of a machine is attached to it and influences its nominations, and the purely independent voters who gave vent to their sentiments through the medium of the Citizens' ticket, now feel that it fails to meet the requirement of the thoroughly independent voter, and there is talk of another ticket that shall be independent in name and character.

LACKAWANNA'S PLANS.

Railroad Company's Representatives Held a Conference Tuesday Night with Members of the Town Council and Discussed Track Elevation and New Depot.

Messrs. Day and Bush of the engineering department of the Lackawanna Railroad Company met in conference on Tuesday night with members of the Town Council and discussed track elevation and new depot plans. President Eppey of the Essex Cross Town Street Railway Company was also a party to the conference. The railroad representatives submitted maps and diagrams of the improvements contemplated at Glenwood Avenue. The drawings showed elevated tracks over Glenwood Avenue and Washington Street. The line of the elevation begins at a point near Second River, and to obtain sufficient clearance both Glenwood Avenue and Washington Street would have to be depressed. A diagram of a new depot building, located about seventy feet north of the present station, was also shown. The plan called for a brick building, and with platform entrances from both Glenwood Avenue and Washington Street, and a street fifty feet wide leading from Conger Street to the new station. A plan of freight-yard facilities was also shown.

The Councilmen were pleased with the display of proposed improvements, but Councilman Conlan asked why the plans submitted did not show what the company proposed to do along the entire line in this town from East Orange city line to the Glen Ridge borough line. Mr. Conlan called attention in particular to the absence of any definite information about the proposed change at Watseong.

Mr. Day said that definite plans had not yet been decided upon for the changes at Watseong, but in his opinion that had no material bearing on the Glenwood Avenue plans.

Mr. Conlan took exception to that view of the matter, and the result was that the Council asked the railroad representatives to submit a complete set of plans for the full length of the road in the town limits.

Mr. Eppey opposed that part of the proposed improvement which extended Conger Street to Glenwood Avenue.

NINE MILLION JOB.

REPORT OF THE PASSAIC RIVER VALLEY SEWER COMMISSION.

Trunk Sewer from Paterson Falls to New York Bay Proposed—Bill Authorizing its Construction Introduced—Will Cost Bloomfielders Seventeen Cents on Each Hundred Dollars of Tax Valuations Annually.

The Passaic Valley district sewerage and drainage scheme is again in the front as a matter of public interest and importance. The importance of the project may be a matter of opinion, but the interest is vital, for the cost is going to run away up into the millions, and this town will have to bear its proportionate share. The Commission appointed by the Governor to investigate the sewerage problem for the Passaic River Valley has submitted its report, and a bill embodying the recommendations of that report was introduced in the Legislature by Assemblyman Boyd Monday night. According to the report of the Commissioners it is proposed to build a trunk sewer from Paterson Falls to the New York Bay, with a sufficient capacity to meet the ultimate needs of 1,500,000 people. The approximate cost of the construction of the proposed sewer is \$9,000,000, exclusive of the cost of rights of way that may have to be acquired.

For purposes of taxing the cost of the sewer upon the property benefited it is proposed to consider the tax value in the Passaic Valley District as a whole, and then apportion the expense among the several municipalities according to the proportion the municipal tax valuation bears to the total valuation of the entire district. The total valuation of the Passaic Valley Sewer District laid out by the Commissioners is \$28,850,255. Bloomfield's valuations are given in the report at \$5,046,750. It is estimated that the annual amount to be raised by taxation for interest charges, sinking fund account, cost of pumping stations, general maintenance, and administration and supervision amount to \$42,500, entailing an annual tax of seventeen cents upon each one hundred dollars of taxable valuations in the district, and that is assuming that the total valuations in the sewer district five years hence will have reached \$350,000,000. If a contribution can be secured from the State the tax of seventeen cents per one hundred dollars of valuations will be reduced.

The bill introduced by Assemblyman Boyd conforms in every respect to the constitutional and statute requirements. It recites that the Legislature has created a sewerage district under the name of the Passaic Valley Sewerage District, that five Commissioners have been appointed for the district, and that in order to carry into effect the plans of said Commissioners it is necessary to extend the powers of that body. Section one provides that the Commissioners appointed shall continue in office for the period of their respective terms, and extends those terms to the first Tuesday in May succeeding the dates when their terms under the original appointments would respectively expire; it empowers the Governor to appoint one Commissioner each year thereafter for the term of five years, beginning the first Tuesday in May following the date of his appointment, and to fill vacancies occasioned by death or otherwise; that Commissioners shall take oath to execute their duties impartially and in accordance with law; that each shall get a salary of \$2,500 paid in monthly installments; gives the Governor power to remove Commissioners from office for cause and to fill vacancies thus caused by appointment for the unexpired terms.

The bill authorizes the issuing of bonds as follows: "Such bonds shall be in the form and payable at a time not exceeding fifty years from the date thereof, and at such places and either in currency or coin as the said Sewerage Commissioners may determine; such bonds shall bear interest at a rate not exceeding four per centum per annum, payable semi-annually; all such bonds shall be signed by the Chairman of the said Board of Sewerage Commissioners and countersigned by the Treasurer, and shall be sealed by its corporate seal, attested by the clerk. In issuing such bonds the Board of Sewerage Commissioners may in its discretion make the same or any part thereof fall due at stated periods less than fifty years from the date of issue, and may reserve in said bonds an option to redeem or pay the same or any part thereof at stated periods at any time between the date thereof and the date at which they would otherwise fall due. The said bonds may be either coupon or registered bonds, and all such bonds may be negotiated, sold, and disposed of at not less than their par value, and the same or the proceeds thereof may be used by the said Sewerage Commis-

sioners for the purposes aforesaid."

Mr. Boyd's bill also provides for a contribution from the State to help defray the cost of the work. The bill reads: "In case the Legislature of the State of New Jersey shall, for the purpose of paying its fair and equitable proportion of the cost of the construction or of the operation and maintenance of the said works, or for relieving from pollution the lands of the State under the Passaic River, and the riparian rights thereon still owned by the State, appropriate yearly or in any year to the Passaic Valley Sewerage Commissioners any sum or sums of moneys, the same shall be used for such purpose as shall be designated in the act or acts appropriating said money, and in case no such designation is made in said acts the same shall be used and applied by the said Sewerage Commissioners at their discretion to reduce the amount otherwise necessary to be raised by taxation for the maintenance of the said work and the payment of the interest and sinking fund charges upon bonds theretofore issued by the Sewerage Commissioners."

It is anticipated that Paterson interests will oppose the bill. The Paterson Press says of the Commissioners' report: "There is reason to expect, too, that the trunk sewer project will this time be met in the discussion which it is sure to excite with a more formidable antagonism from Paterson than we have ever been able to present before. In committee and the Legislature it will encounter an alternative project on the part of our city for the local disposal of its sewage by a plan devised by eminent experts on the subject, which will be shown to be less costly than a trunk sewer, will be claimed to be equally effective for its purpose, and which, moreover, can certainly be used, while it is believed by almost all unprejudiced persons that a trunk sewer will not be permitted to empty into New York waters, especially as the people on the Jersey bay side and ocean fronts have already declared it shall not empty in their waters."

County Isolation Hospital.

The project now under consideration by the local Board of Health for a union isolation hospital for contagious diseases, and to be maintained by this town, Montclair and Glen Ridge, with possibly other towns added, and also the plan of a union isolation hospital for Orange, South Orange, and West Orange, are schemes that are likely to be abandoned if a bill introduced in the Legislature Monday night by Senator Bacheller becomes a law. The bill provides for a county isolation hospital to be erected, maintained, and conducted by the Board of Chosen Freeholders.

The Board of Freeholders under the provisions of the bill acquire property by purchase or otherwise upon which to erect a hospital, but the building must be not less than 250 feet away from any building or inhabited dwelling. The Board is authorized to issue four per cent bonds to an amount not to exceed one-tenth of one per cent of the county tax ratables, and to run not more than fifty years, and with the usual sinking fund provision, the proceeds of the bonds to be used in the acquiring of property and erection of buildings, but the maintenance expenses of the institution are to be paid out of the tax levy.

Senator Bacheller's bill apparently aims to keep politics out of the control and conducting of the institution by providing a non-partisan plan of management. The bill calls for a Board of six managers, of whom three shall be selected from the several Boards of Health in the county, and three of whom shall be physicians, and no more than three shall serve without compensation. The Board of Management has the power to employ and fix the salary of a superintendent and such other officers and help as may be necessary. The Board is also authorized to remove persons suffering from contagious diseases to the hospital.

Senator Bacheller believes that the bill he has introduced has been framed to avoid the opposition and objections that have arisen against previous efforts to have the care of contagious diseases centralized in a county institution, and he thinks the bill will go through.

Dr. Herald, President of the Newark Board of Health, who opposed a county hospital plan last winter, it is claimed, will not object to this bill, and Mayor Doremus of Newark is quoted as an advocate of the plan.

LOCAL POLITICS.

MUCH INTEREST MANIFESTED IN THE NEW PRIMARY BILL.

Local Politicians Cannot Make Plans with Certainty Pending Action on It—Ward Conventions Abolished by the New Bill—Strict Rules Governing Primaries.

For several years past there has been something pending in the Legislature that has threatened to materially affect the local spring election, and has kept local politicians from proceeding with any certainty in formulating plans for the spring campaign. One year it was the anti-spring election bill that rendered it uncertain for a long time as to whether an election would be held. Last year the annexation bill caused similar suspense, and this year there is a measure known as the "pure primary bill," which, while it will not prevent the election, will upset much of the machinery if it becomes a law and goes into immediate effect.

Ward and township conventions are abolished by the measure, nominations for ward and township officers to be made by direct vote at the primary election. For nominations shared by more than one township or ward, the delegate convention system is to be continued, the law itself regulating the representation to be allowed all parties in their respective conventions.

It is proposed to hold the primary election for the making of nominations for the general election on the second Tuesday in September, placing all parties on a parity with regard to the duration of campaigns. The first registration day in cities is to be held the same date, and the registration and primary election are to be conducted simultaneously, with the requirement that no person shall be allowed to vote in the primary unless he is registered.

The new bill will make it easier to nominate candidates for local offices by petition. Any ten voters may, by petition, place in nomination as a candidate for delegate for nomination to office, any member of their party. The man so nominated is to make affidavit that he is qualified for the position, and will accept if elected at the primary, and the signers of the petition are each to make affidavit that they are voters, and are members of the party for whose ticket their recommendation for nomination is made.

All names so presented by petition are to be placed on the official primary ballot of the proper party by the county, city, town or borough clerk, whose duty it is to see to the printing of ballots. If objection is made to any petition, the objector may make complaint and specifications in writing, and the objection may be heard and the question of validity passed upon by the municipal clerk, or by a summary inquiry and decision by any presiding justice of the Supreme Court in the county.

The specific aim of the pure primary bill is to prevent political manipulators voting Republicans at a Democratic primary, or Democrats at a Republican primary. The bill provides:

"No member of one political party shall sign his name to any petition purporting to endorse any person as a candidate for delegate to the convention of another political party, nor shall any member of one political party vote in the ballot box used for the primary election of another political party; any person who, being a member of one political party, shall sign his name to any petition endorsing any person as a candidate for delegate to the convention of another existing political party, or as a candidate for office of another political party, or any person who, being a member of one political party, shall vote in the ballot box of another political party, shall in each case be guilty of a misdemeanor, and on conviction shall be punishable by a fine not to exceed \$500, or imprisonment not to exceed two years, or both, in the discretion of the court."

It is doubtful whether the radical changes in election methods proposed by this bill will go into effect this spring.

Passaic Valley District.

What is called the Passaic River Valley Sewerage District comprises the following municipalities: Newark, Orange, East Orange, Bloomfield, and Ridge, Montclair, Bellville, and Nutley in Essex County; Paterson, Passaic, and Aqueduct in Passaic County; Garfield, Rutherford, Union, and North Arlington in Bergen County; Kearny, Harrison, and East Newark, in Hudson County.

